

TWO FAMOUS INDIAN FIGHTERS BY BUFFALO BILL

FROM TRUE TALES OF THE PLAINS



My first meeting with General George A. Custer was when I was a scout in the department of the Missouri, the spring of 1867. At this time General Custer's regiment, the Seventh Cavalry, United States Army, was Fort Larned, on Pawnee Fork, near Arkansas River.

One evening the general arrived at Fort Hays from Fort Harker. He had in him only two officers and three men. The general told Captain Ovenshine, who was in command of the Fort Hays at the time, that he wished to go to Fort Larned the next morning to join his regiment and to get a guide who knew the country, so that would make no mistake, well known, to guide him to Fort Larned. Captain Ovenshine sent for me and told me to be ready sharp at daylight.



mule would get ahead of the horses.

So with General Custer and that he wanted me to have the best mule was at the post. At that time horses at the fort were pretty well down from many chases after Indians, but I was riding and had at times as good a long distance horse as I have ever known, and he was a mule. The general himself was riding Kentucky thoroughbred.

At daylight I rode up to the commanding officer's quarters, and Captain Ovenshine introduced me for the first time to General Custer. The general, seeing that I was mounted on a mule, said to Captain Ovenshine:

"Captain, I haven't got time to dilly dally along the road with a mule. I want him to have a horse, a good one."

"General, this is the best mule at the fort, and I assure you he won't be much behind you when you reach Fort Larned."

The captain explained to the general the horses were in pretty bad shape at the fort and that he had no more to say about that than that he felt quite sure that the mule was all right.

The general seemed a little displeased and said, "Well, if that is the best mule I will have to put up with it."

He mounted and started out on the mule. For the first fifteen miles to the Rocky Hill river there was a good road, and as we rode along the general asked me numerous questions about the country and the Indians, and thus we talked along mile after mile. But the general was going pretty rapid gait, and my mule not very speedy on the start, but he would finish all right. So the general was not looking at the mule, but I kept a close watch on the mule. I kept a close watch on the mule until I got to the Rocky Hill river. I noticed that the mule was not panting much, but horses were.

I told the general that this would be the water for forty-five miles we got near Larned; that it would be water to the horses there, and he men required any water they better fill up their canteens, which I did.

From this point we struck into the hills, leaving all roads. It was a sandy and pretty heavy travel for horse or mule, but I made up my mind that I would show the general from there on that I had spoken the truth about the mule. So when the general was not looking at me I would lead the mule, and as he would be ahead I would say:

"Now, there! Take it easy, old fellow. Don't get to fretting!"

So went on like that for a mile or two. The mule would get ahead of the general, and whenever the general was not looking at me I would lead the mule, and as he would be ahead I would say:

"Now, there! Take it easy, old fellow. Don't get to fretting!"

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as usual. Next day the Indians were followed, and skirmishing was kept up incessantly. Lieutenant Schenck on that occasion came near being ambushed and had a few men killed. This continuous skirmishing was kept up for three days, with myself almost continuously in the saddle, and while we were in front the general sounded the officers' call for consultation. I will permit General Carr to tell the story of an affair in which he punished the Indians severely, while the story relates also to my connection with the matter:

"I had heard some firing in front, where the advance guard had gone out of sight. My orders were for the advance guard to regulate on the main column and always keep in sight of it, but as Major Babcock and Lieutenant W. P. Hall, now General Hall, were so ambitious and anxious for a fight I thought I would give them a chance, and so I let them alone. After hasty consultation regarding lack of supplies I sent a bugler to recall the advance guard. He came back saying he could not reach them, as they were surrounded by Indians. The Indians had got into four ravines which headed near the trail, two on each side. The half dozen had led the advance on with insulting gestures and defiant words (some could speak and swear in English), and when they came between the ravines the whole poured out around them. Babcock dismounted his men and formed them in a circle and stood the Indians off. I sent Lieutenant Brady with the next company to open communications, and the Indians, supposing the whole command was coming, went on as before.

"Reaching the scene, we could see the Indians scattering in retreat. A figure with apparently a red cap rose slowly on the hill. For an instant I paused, as if wore a buckskin and had long hair. But on seeing the horse I recognized that it was Cody's Powder Face and saw that it was 'Buffalo Bill' without his broad brimmed sombrero. On closer inspection I saw that his head was swathed in a bloody handkerchief, which served not only as a temporary bandage, but as a chaparral, his hat having been shot off, the bullet plowing his scalp badly for about five inches. It had ridged along the bone and was bleeding profusely, a very close call, but a lucky escape. However, it would not do to turn back immediately after such impudence, so I took to the gallop and ran them for twelve miles to and across the Republican and up the bluffs on the south side, where they acted in their usual aggravating style by scattering in every direction after dropping a good deal of plunder. We could see them on the distant hill, but could not catch them under the circumstances or without means of some counter strategic cunning, so we went back and camped north of the Republican. The advance guard had been relieved and the Indians severely punished, with a loss on our side of but four or five killed and a few wounded, this with Babcock's horse wounded and Cody's narrow escape as the resulting casualties. The object of the campaign was nearly accomplished, but our greatest need was supplies, which the hot trail had sidetracked in the excitement of the necessary pursuit of the defiant foe. As the country was infested with Indians and it was fifty miles to the nearest supply point, Fort Kearny, on consultation with Cody he decided that it would be best to undertake the job himself, a point characteristic of him, as he never shirked duty or faltered in emergencies. I gave him the best

Among the many army officers under whom I have served one of my earliest experiences was with Major General Eugene A. Carr, retired. General Carr was a graduate of West Point when cabins were more plentiful than frame houses in upper New York state, whence he came. Graduating in 1850, he went to the frontier and graduated in that old school that made him one of the best of Indian fighters.

In 1868 I first met him when I was a scout for Colonel Royal's command, whom he succeeded. It has been the pride of my career that, he being an officer of such wide experience and ability, I secured his esteem and friendship, and in his writings he has been very generous in alluding to my services. I had the honor of serving with him in many trying campaigns, notably in that which culminated in his success over Tall Bull, who had long been the terror of the plains with what is known as the "dog soldiers," who were renegades recruited from a dozen dissipated tribes and were composed of the most vicious, fanatical Indians who were opposed to the white man's intrusion in the west. The depredations were of a terrifying nature, and Carr was delegated to punish them at all hazards. Their continuous pursuit for many months was a very trying one, as they employed the Indians' methods of annoyance in attack by safely scattering when hard pressed. Knowing that only strategic cunning could eventually effect subjugation or dispersal, General Carr proved by his persistent energy and strategy that he was equal to the situation. It was during the continuous pursuit of these warriors that I met one of my closest calls in an incident which occurred at a point called Elephant rock. It was in the spring of 1869 that we reached Elephant rock, which is a point on a rock on the south side of Beaver valley, where I found an Indian trail going down the Beaver, and following it, the command went into camp. The general ordered Lieutenant Ward to follow it, I being already on the scene. I was keeping the Indians in sight while covering my presence from them, when somewhat to the left, almost parallel with them, I heard firing, and I afterward ascertained that Lieutenant Ward was in a skirmish so premature that at one time it threatened to cut me off.



His head was swathed in a bloody handkerchief.

General Carr left the command under Major Brown to follow with the wagons, and the Indians, skirmishing with great daring, put up a game fight. General Carr followed them until nearly dark and returned to meet and protect the wagons. Forming his men in a hollow square, he made an orderly retreat, the Indians showing great pertinacity in their skirmish tactics, so much so that the general got a bullet through the scabbard of his saber. Meeting the wagons and getting into a good position, he went into camp, but the Indians stayed around all night, emitting the cries of owls and coyotes.

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JOHN C. McCUE, ATTORNEY AT Law, Page Building, Suite 4.

HOWARD M. BROWNELL, Attorney at Law, Deputy District Attorney, 420 Commercial Street.

DENTISTS

DR. F. VAUGHAN, DENTIST, Pythian Building, Astoria, Oregon.

DR. W. C. LOGAN, DENTIST, Commercial Street, Shanahan Bldg.

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NOTICE.

Board of Equalization To Meet.

Notice is hereby given that special assessment roll number 184, made for the purpose of constructing a sewer on 17th street, from the North line of Irving avenue to the South line of Jerome avenue, has been filed with the Auditor and Police Judge, and numbered special assessment roll number 184 and that the Committee on streets and Public Ways has been appointed a committee of the Council to sit with the Board of Assessors to examine, correct and equalize the same, and that Saturday the 30th day of January A. D. 1909, at the hour of 2 o'clock, p. m. in the Council Chambers in the City Hall has been fixed as the time and place of said meeting of said Board of Equalization. All objections to said assessment must be presented in writing.

OLAF ANDERSON, Auditor and Police Judge of the City of Astoria, Ore. Dated January 20, 1909. 10t

NOTICE.

Board of Equalization To Meet.

Notice is hereby given that special assessment roll number 185 made for the purpose of improving Jerome Avenue, from the East line of 14th street, to the East line of 17th street, has been filed with the Auditor and Police Judge, and numbered special assessment roll number 185, and that the committee on streets and public ways has been appointed a committee of the Council to sit with the Board of Assessors to examine, correct and equalize the same, and that Saturday the 30th day of January A. D. 1909, at the hour of 2 o'clock, p. m. in the Council Chambers in the City Hall has been fixed as the time and place of said meeting of said Board of Equalization. All objections to said assessment must be presented in writing.

OLAF ANDERSON, Auditor and Police Judge of the City of Astoria, Ore. Dated January 20, 1909. 10t

NOTICE—THERE IS MONEY IN the Irving-avenue, from Ninth to Eighth streets, fund, to pay the following warrants: Nos. 26882 to 26887, inclusive; interest will cease after this date.

THOS. DEALEY, City Treasurer, Astoria, Or., Jan. 27, 1909.

NOTICE.

Board of Equalization To Meet.

Notice is hereby given that special assessment roll number 186 made for the purpose of constructing a Sewer on 51st street, from the South line of Cedar street, to the beach on the North side of Birch street, has been filed with the Auditor and Police Judge, and numbered special assessment roll number 186, and that the committee on streets and public ways has been appointed a committee of the Council to sit with the Board of Assessors to examine, correct and equalize the same, and that Saturday the 30th day of January A. D. 1909, at the hour of 2 o'clock, p. m. in the Council Chambers in the City Hall has been fixed as the time and place of said meeting of said Board of Equalization. All objections to said assessment must be presented in writing.

OLAF ANDERSON, Auditor and Police Judge of the City of Astoria, Ore. Dated January 20, 1909. 10t

NOTICE.

Board of Equalization To Meet.

Notice is hereby given that special assessment roll number 188 made for the purpose of improving Irving Avenue from the East line of Shively's Astoria, to the West line of 40th street, has been filed with the Auditor and Police Judge, and numbered special assessment roll number 188, and that the committee on streets and public ways has been appointed a committee of the Council to sit with the Board of Assessors to examine, correct and equalize the same, and that Saturday the 30th day of January A. D. 1909, at the hour of 2 o'clock, p. m. in the Council Chambers in the City Hall has been fixed as the time and place of said meeting of said Board of Equalization. All objections to said assessment must be presented in writing.

OLAF ANDERSON, Auditor and Police Judge of the City of Astoria, Ore. Dated January 20, 1909. 10t

NOTICE.

There is money in the Irving-avenue from 11th to 15th street fund to pay warrants Nos. 25417 to 25421 inclusive. Interest will cease after this date. Astoria, Or., Jan. 18, 1909.

THOMAS DEALEY, City Treasurer.

NOTICE.

Board of Equalization To Meet.

Notice is hereby given that special assessment roll number 187 made for the purpose of constructing a Sewer on Irving Avenue, from the man-hole at the crossing of Irving avenue and 11th street to a point 150 feet east of the east line of 11th street, has been filed with the Auditor and Police Judge, and numbered special assessment roll number 187, and that the committee on streets and public ways has been appointed a committee of the Council to sit with the Board of Assessors to examine, correct and equalize the same, and that Saturday the 30th day of January A. D. 1909, at the hour of 2 o'clock, p. m. in the Council Chambers in the City Hall has been fixed as the time and place of said meeting of said Board of Equalization. All objections to said assessment must be presented in writing.

OLAF ANDERSON, Auditor and Police Judge of the City of Astoria, Ore. Dated January 20, 1909. 10t

NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that the County Superintendent of Clatsop County will hold the regular examination of applicants for state and county papers at her office in court house as follows:

For State Papers, Commencing Wednesday, February 10th at 9 o'clock a. m. and continuing until Saturday, February 13th at 4 p. m.

Wednesday—Penmanship, History, Spelling, Physical Geography, Reading, Psychology.

Thursday—Written Arithmetic, Theory of Teaching, Grammar, Bookkeeping, Physics, Civil Government.

Friday—Physiology, Geography, Composition, Algebra, English Literature, School Law.

Saturday—Botany, Plain Geometry, General History.

For County Papers, Commencing Wednesday, February 10th at 9 o'clock a. m. and continuing until Friday, February 12th at 4 p. m.

Wednesday—Penmanship, History, Orthography, Reading, Physical Geography.

Thursday—Written Arithmetic, Theory of Teaching, Grammar, Physiology.

Friday—Geography, School Law, Civil Government, English Literature.

EMMA C. WARREN, County Supt. of Schools.

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